

South Dakota National Guard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

B Battery, 1-147th FA holds change of responsibility ceremony

Story and photos by Sgt. Robert Buechler
Bravo Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion

YANKTON, S.D. — The South Dakota National Guard's Bravo Battery, 1/147th Field Artillery Battalion, held a change of responsibility ceremony at the National Guard armory in Yankton, June 6.

Master Sgt. Brooks Schild of the 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), was promoted to first sergeant and assumed the role of the battery's top noncommissioned officer from 1st Sgt. Chad Durfee.

In his new role, Schild is the principal noncommissioned officer of the battery and will provide discipline, counseling and training to the Soldiers, as well as to advise and assist the commander and officers. Bravo Battery provides fire support using the Multiple Launch Rocket System.

"I'm honored. It's been my lifetime goal to become first sergeant," said Schild. "I couldn't think of a better group of Soldiers to lead than those of Bravo Battery."

1st Sgt. Durfee served as the top noncommissioned officer for the battery since 2010. Prior to this, Durfee served with Charlie Battery, 2/147th FA, Alpha Battery, 1/147th FA and the 1/181st FA of the Tennessee Army National Guard.

"I cannot think of anyone better than 1st Sgt. Schild to take on the role of first sergeant at Bravo Battery," said Durfee. "He truly is a 'Soldier's Soldier,' whose knowledge of the 13M and 13P roles will be a huge asset in taking the battery and battalion in the right direction."

Schild began his military career by joining the 1/168th Infantry, Iowa Army National Guard, on Jan. 19, 1990, and ending his enlistment as a platoon sergeant on Jan. 18, 2000. Schild received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Dakota Wesleyan University in 1988 and his Masters degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1998. Schild began his teaching career in 1988 as a science teacher at Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs, Iowa. From there, he served as a district technology administrator at Dakota Valley School District in South Dakota, then as a science teacher for the Yankton School District in 2001.

Schild re-enlisted in the SDARNG in February of 2005, joining his brother, Sgt. 1st Class Richard Schild in Charlie Battery, 1/147th FA. While serving here, Schild was activated for two overseas deployments: the first to Forward Operating Base Rustamiyah in Baghdad, Iraq, in 2005 and the second to the Seaport of Debarkation in Kuwait in 2009. Prior to transferring to the 196th RTI, Schild served as a platoon sergeant for the battery during the Missouri River Flood in 2011.

Capt. Darrin Eichacker, Bravo Battery commander, was pleased with the appointment of Schild.

“1st Sgt. Schild brings a lot of expertise from the RTI in regards to his perspectives of readiness and training,” said Eichacker. “I think he is an excellent selection and will do a great job at the battery.”

Durfee will take on the role of operations noncommissioned officer for the fire cell of the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade in Sioux Falls. Durfee said he was expecting the change in his assignment and looked at it as a necessary move to further his military career.

“I’ve spent all 24 years of my military career at the battery level,” said Durfee. “I’m looking forward to this as a new challenge.”

Regarding Durfee, Schild said, “He is the epitome of a first sergeant. He’s the best I’ve known and I’ve learned a lot from him.”

The highlight of the ceremony was the passing of the noncommissioned officer sword, signifying the transfer of responsibility and authority from the outgoing to the incoming first sergeant. The 1840 U.S. Army NCO sword was passed from Durfee to Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Rose of the 1/147th FA, and then to Schild. This passing of the sword marked the end of one first sergeant’s role and the beginning of another.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held in honor of both first sergeants. The next day, Schild began his new duties by leading the battery in section certification training for the upcoming annual training event at Camp Ripley, Minnesota.

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High resolution photos are available at www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard



140606-Z-AF159-021: Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Rose, 1/147th Field Artillery Battalion, (right) passes the noncommissioned officer sword to 1st Sgt. Brooks Schild, newly appointed first sergeant for Bravo Battery, 1/147th FA, during a change of responsibility ceremony held in Yankton, S.D., June 6, 2014. The ceremony marked the passing of responsibility and authority from one senior enlisted leader to another.. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Robert Buechler)(RELEASED)



120606-Z-AF159-034: Outgoing first sergeant, 1st Sgt. Chad Durfee, (left) and incoming first sergeant, 1st Sgt. Brooks Schild, pose with a cake designed for them during a reception in their honor following the change of responsibility ceremony in Yankton, S.D., June 6, 2014. Schild officially takes over the senior enlisted leader position during the ceremony, while Durfee becomes the operations NCO for the fire cell of the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade in Sioux Falls. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Robert Buechler)(RELEASED)

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